

Good Afternoon Senator Bartolomeo, Senator Linares, Representative Urban, Representative Betts and distinguished members of the Children's Committee. My name is Dan Scavone and I am the Director of Athletics at Berlin High School and I am currently President of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors. I would like to take this time and echo sentiments of my colleague, Mr. Fred Balsamo, and speak against any further restrictions on the use of pesticides on our school/town athletic fields.

My main concern is that the condition of athletic fields will rapidly decline resulting in a much greater potential for various injuries, including head injuries to athletes of all ages. In addition, our town maintenance departments work with very limited budgets and without the responsible use of certain chemicals not only would fields become potentially unplayable but the magnitude of costs to refurbish would be outside realistic budget boundaries. While I too am a proponent of a healthy environment, I also am realistic that chemicals used by our professionals at moderate levels protects our kids from other detriments such as goose droppings, grubs, poison ivy, and bees.

I ask that you continue to allow local control with the use of pesticides which would surely protect our young athletes by ensuring proper field maintenance at a reasonable cost. Our Parks and Recreation facility maintainers are very responsible and aware of the proper and safe use of chemicals on grass fields.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Sent from my iPad